

**TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES
DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US)
CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371**

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (If known, see 37 CFR 1.5)

09/856886

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.
PCT/EP99/09207

INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE
24/11/1999

PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED
26/11/1998

TITLE OF INVENTION

PHARMACEUTICAL COMPOUNDS FOR THE INHIBITION OF HEPATITIS C VIRUS NS3 PROTEASE

APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US

ANTONELLO PESSI, PAOLA INGALLINELLA, ELISABETTA BIANCHI

Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:

1. ☒ This is a **FIRST** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
2. ☐ This is a **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
3. ☐ This is an express request to begin national examination procedures [35 U.S.C. 371(f)] at any time rather than delay examination until the expiration of the applicable time limit set in 35 U.S.C. 371(b) and PCT Articles 22 and 39(I).
4. ☒ A proper Demand for International Preliminary Examination was made and the US was elected by the expiration of the 19th month from the earliest claimed priority date (PCT Article 31).
5. ☒ A copy of the International Application as filed [35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)].
 - a. ☒ is attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau).
 - b. ☐ has been communicated by the International Bureau.
 - c. ☐ is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US).
6. ☐ An English language translation of the International Application as filed [35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)].
7. ☐ Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 [35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)].
 - a. ☐ are attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau).
 - b. ☐ have been communicated by the International Bureau.
 - c. ☐ have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.
 - d. ☐ have not been made and will not be made.
8. ☐ An English language translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 [35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)].
9. ☐ An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) [35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)].
10. ☐ An English language translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 [35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)].

Items 11 to 16 below concern other document(s) or information included:

11. ☐ An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
12. ☐ An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.
13. ☒ A **FIRST** preliminary amendment.
☐ A **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** preliminary amendment.
14. ☐ A substitute specification.
15. ☐ A change of power of attorney and/or address letter.
16. ☐ Other items or information:

EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE

DATE OF DEPOSIT MAY 25 2001
EXPRESS MAIL NO. EM 230307696 US
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS
BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL
SERVICE AS EXPRESS MAIL "POST OFFICE TO
ADDRESSEE" BEFORE 5 P.M. ON THE ABOVE DATE IN
AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER
FOR PATENTS, WASHINGTON, D.C., 20231
MAILED BY Kathy Klutznick
DATE 5-25-01

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (If known, see 37 CFR 1.5) 09/856886				INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/EP99/09207		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER IT0013P			
17. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The following fees are submitted: BASIC NATIONAL FEE [37 CFR 1.492(a)(1)-(5)]: Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee [37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)] paid to USPTO and International Search Report not prepared by the EPO or JPO..... \$1,000.00 International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but International Search Report prepared by the EPO or JPO..... \$860.00 International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but international search fee [37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)] paid to USPTO..... \$710.00 International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) but all claims did not satisfy provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4)..... \$690.00 International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4)..... \$100.00 <div style="text-align: right;">ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT = \$860.00</div>						CALCULATIONS		PTO USE ONLY	
Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date [37 CFR 1.492(e)].						\$0.00			
Claims	Number Filed	Number Extra	Rate						
Total Claims	21 - 20 =	1	X \$18.00	\$18.00					
Independent Claims	1 - 3 =	0	X \$80.00	\$0.00					
Multiple dependent claim(s) (if applicable)			+ \$270.00	\$0.00					
TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =				\$878.00					
<input type="checkbox"/> Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27. The fees indicated above are reduced by 1/2.									
SUBTOTAL =				\$878.00					
Processing fee of \$130.00 for furnishing the English translation later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date [37 CFR 1.492(f)].						+	\$0.00		
TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =				\$878.00					
Fee for recording the enclosed assignment [37 CFR 1.21(h)]. The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). \$40.00 per property.						+			
TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =				\$878.00					
						Amount to be refunded			
						charged			
a. <input type="checkbox"/> A check in the amount of \$ _____ to cover the above fees is enclosed. b. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Please charge my Deposit Account No. <u>13-2755</u> in the amount of <u>\$878.00</u> to cover the above fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed. c. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to the Deposit Account No. <u>13-2755</u> . A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.									
NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive [37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b)] must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.									
SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO: MERCK & CO., INC. Patent Department, RY60-30 P.O. Box 2000 126 East Lincoln Avenue Rahway, New Jersey 07065-0970									
DATE: <u>May 25, 2001</u> PHONE #: <u>(732) 594-1958</u>				<div style="text-align: center;"> SIGNATURE SHELDON O. HEBER NAME <u>38,179</u> REGISTRATION NUMBER </div>					